

PATIENT COOLING SYSTEM

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RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to and is a continuation-in-part of co-pending United States patent application no. 10/290,938 filed November 8, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference. *now U.S. Patent No. 6,945,987*

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates generally to systems for cooling a person for therapeutic purposes. More particularly, this invention relates to an enclosure or tent and support system for a patient who is to be cooled to a temperature below normal body temperature.

BACKGROUND

[0003] International patent applications published under WO 97/42919 and WO 00/27323, which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, describe systems for rapidly cooling a patient to a temperature a few degrees below normal blood temperature, e.g. in the range of about 32 to 34 degrees Celsius. This clinical procedure has been used with some success in reducing brain damage to cardiac or stroke patients.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention provides an improved patient cooling system, which, according to a first feature of the invention, comprises an enclosure or tent having an inlet connected to an air cooling system, and an outlet which is connected to re-circulate exhaust air back to the inlet of the cooling system in order to minimize energy losses. Preferably, the enclosure is arranged so that it can be used on a variety of patient support devices including hospital bed frames, mattresses, and support devices mounted in an ambulance fitted with a suitable source of cold air.